

☿ The Diablo Code ☿

By P. A. Todzia

"I've been accused of truth and alchemy, been accused of speaking out for freedom too."
— Van Morrison.

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A list of Christian symbols, iconography, and figurative elements in the film *Jennifer's Body* (theatrical release, 2009) written by Diablo Cody and directed by Karyn Kusama:

- 1) Jennifer's name, Jennifer Check = J. C. = Jesus Christ. Check (approve) = Christ (chosen/anointed).
- 2) Jennifer's lamps are stylized Xs. X = Christos, written with an "X" in Greek = the letter *chi*. (The X is also St Andrew's Cross).
- 3) Devil's Kettle sink hole = the bottomless pit in Revelation 17:8.
- 4) The colors of Jennifer's flag team uniform and flag: purple, scarlet, and gold are the colors worn by the Whore of Babylon in Revelation 17:4. In some pictures, Jennifer's uniform looks blue. The colors might also be symbolic of the Veil of the Tabernacle and Temple, which was blue, purple, and scarlet, suspended from gold hooks. The blue symbolized divinity, scarlet humanity, and purple the combination of both. Behind the Veil was the Holiest where the Ark of the Covenant was kept and were the visible Glory of God resided.
- 5) As a girl Jennifer gets a tack in the palm of her hand = Stigmata; and Needy drinks Jennifer's blood when she licks the wound = communion.
- 6) Jennifer's hand is marked with an X at the bar (see #2).
- 7) Jennifer mentions losing her "back door" virginity to Roman. "By the way," she says,

“that hurts!” Jesus was tortured and crucified by Roman soldiers.

8) Possible lunar symbolism related to the Virgin Mary.

9) Needy's hand has an X on it (from the bar) when she's on the phone with Chip.

10) A Crucifix is shown by the front door of Needy's house after Jennifer returns from being killed by the band — the “saviour” is in the house! Also a “God Bless” needle work hangs above the couch.

11) The narrow stairs in Needy's house: each time Needy uses them, she meets Jennifer; the stairs are symbolic of going up, and the narrowness is an allusion to Matthew 7:14 (“...narrow is the way which leadeth unto life...”).

12) A wooden cross is standing on the floor of Needy's cell and there is head of Jesus in the stuff as well.

13) Those “yarn things” — god's eyes — in her cell look like crosses or Xs.

14) Needy says she prays “but no one ever gets off the cross.” = Jennifer.

15) Needy says “We were all saints” in one line.

16) Low Shoulder = L. S. = Last Supper. Their show is the last time Jennifer and Needy are together in a normal way. One shot of Jennifer and Needy resembles Rubens' *Last Supper* (1632, now in Milan; orig. the altar piece of St. Rombout Church, Mechelen.)

17) Nikolai's cup outside the bar. The “Bitter Cup” representing the fate of Jesus. See Matthew 26:42; Mark 14:35–36; Luke 22:41–42; and John 18:11.

18) Jennifer is in a trance-like state when she gets into the band's van and is driven into the forest. “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness....” Revelation 17:3.

19) Needy compares Nikolai to an evil tree, see Matthew 7:17: “...A corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.” Nikolai when he offers Jennifer to the devil unleashes the demon.

20) Fire = hell. The fire might also be analogous to the baptism of fire mentioned in Matthew 3:11.

21) Jennifer on the phone with Needy says “I'm X-ing you out.” (This happens a couple of times.) (See #2 for symbolism).

22) Needy sees a bloody cross when making love to Chip.

23) “Chip Dove.” The dove is the symbol for the Holy Spirit. The first three letters of “Chip” are the Greek letter *chi*—an “X.” It is Chip's death that inspires Needy to slay the demon in Jennifer, as the Holy Spirit inspires believers with the Truth. The names “Jonas” and “Colin” also mean “dove.” After Jesus was born, two turtledoves were offered in sacrifice when He was presented at the Temple, according to Luke 2:24.

24) Ahmet is killed by a burning beam in the bar, but Jennifer meets him on the road later. This is analogous to Simeon who was told that he would not see death until he had seen the Christ. See Luke 2:25–29. (It is less likely a reference to John 21:20–23.)

25) The big X shadow on the floor of Needy's cell in solitary confinement.

26) When Jonas is killed, the goal post and tackle dummies suggest crosses; possible X in the trees above Jennifer. His dead body is posed cross-like.

27) Colin Gray has a Crucifix (rosary) that he toys with when asking Jennifer out; it lays by his body when he's killed. He also injures his hand.

28) When Colin enters the house, the window frame has a cross shape.

29) Another window behind him in a shot has a cross shape.

30) A stone cross is shown at the cemetery.

31) When Needy almost hits Jennifer with the car, Jennifer looks like a depiction of the Madonna in one shot.

32) Needy kissing Jennifer then rejecting her = Judas Kiss. See Mark 14:44.

33) A girl in the hallway at school has a Crucifix necklace on.

34) Needy's mother has a nightmare in which people are trying to nail Needy to a tree = crucifixion. Needy's mother crosses herself when she says “J. C.,” which are the initials of Jesus Christ and Jennifer Check.

35) Jennifer says “I feel like a god.” / “I'm having the best day since Jesus invented the calendar.”

36) Chip spears Jennifer with the pool skimmer pole = Spear of Longinus. See John

19:34.

37) Needy slashes an X on Jennifer's stomach (see #2).

38) Just before she levitates in the fight scene, Jennifer's arms and hands are posed as if she's on the cross. When her BFF necklace is torn off, Jennifer might be posed like an X.

39) Jennifer's death = Pieta scene (Mary mourning the Crucified Jesus; Jennifer = Jesus, her mother = Mary).

40) Small angel statue in Jennifer's room, which is part of the pieta.

41) The title, "Jennifer's Body." See Luke 22:19.

42) Anita becomes Needy = Saul becomes Paul; Simon becomes Peter, etc. Her real name means "grace," as in the Grace of God. In Greek, "grace" is "charis." It's written with an "X" — the letter *chi*. Grace is unmerited favor, and Needy loves Jennifer even when Jennifer doesn't deserve it. Her nickname might be an allusion to "need-fire," an old practice to purify livestock in time of distress by herding them through a smoky fire. There are hints that Needy is an anxious person. Needy might start the fire in the bar, à la *Firestarter* (1984), starring Drew Barrymore. Meaning that Jennifer is an atonement for Needy's sin.

43) If Ahmet be one of the victims, Jennifer kills four victims; there are four gospels = by their deaths, the four victims "testify" to Jennifer's "divinity."

44) All of Jennifer's kills are associated with water, as is her death at the hands of the band. In 1 John 5:6, it says that Christ "came by water and blood."

45) In the pool scene, when Jennifer and Chip are seated, you can see three fish on the wall behind Jennifer. The Ichthys (an emblematic fish) is a symbol of Christ. Three fish stand for the Trinity.

46) The heart pendants can be seen as the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When Chip is first shown with Needy, his T-shirt has a heart and an X on it.

47) The three horses (in Jennifer's backyard, in the classroom, and in Needy's bedroom) while not overtly Christian might be a reference to the Feminist artist Rosa Bonheur, who painted *The Horse Fair*. Her father belonged to the Saint-Simonians, a Christian-socialist group that at one point was searching for a female messiah.

48) Some of the songs such as “Sacred Heart” / “Sacre Coeur” by It Dies Today.

49) Needy knows what Jennifer is doing — Needy knows when Jennifer arrives at her house before Jennifer makes her presence known, and Needy “sees” what Jennifer is doing with Colin. This is analogous to the omniscience of a deity.

—compiled by P. A. Todzia (zzia28@yahoo.com)

A supplement to the essay that can be found here:

<http://www.archive.org/details/MusingsOnJenniferCheckAndJesusChristOrTheChristianAllegoryIn>